

VZCZCXRO9953
RR RUEHIK
DE RUEHBS #1332/01 2741601
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 011601Z OCT 09 ZFR CTG NUMEROUS SVCS...RESENT UNDER NEW NUMBERS
FM USEU BRUSSELS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
RUEHC/DOL WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 001332

SIPDIS

DOL FOR BLS AND ILAB
TREASURY FOR IMI
STATE FOR DRL/IL

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ELAB EUN

SUBJECT: EU UNEMPLOYMENT UP TO 9.1 PERCENT; EURO ZONE RATE UP TO 9.6 PERCENT

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11. SUMMARY. The latest EU unemployment data released by the EU Commission's Statistical Office (EUROSTAT) on October 1 showed a further limited deterioration of the situation on the EU labor markets. The aggregate unemployment rate for the EU-27 increased to 9.1 percent in August 2009, up from 9.0 in July. Unemployment in the euro zone (the 16 EU countries currently participating in the euro) increased to 9.6 percent in August 2009, also up by 0.1 percentage point over the previous month. END SUMMARY.

12. With seasonal adjustment and compensation for differences in national statistical methods, the unemployment rate for the EU-27 stood at 9.1 percent in August 2009, up from 9.0 percent in July 2009 and from 7.0 percent in August 2008. The unemployment rate for the euro zone stood at 9.6 percent in August 2009, up from 9.5 percent in July 2009 and from 7.6 percent in August 2008 (comparison based on EU-16; euro zone membership effective in August 2009).

13. The lowest age group compiled by EUROSTAT August 2009 were recorded 2008 quarter rate for August 2009 for the EU-27 and 9.8 percent in Spain. The August 2009 rate for this age group was estimated at 19.8 percent for the EU-27 and at 10.7 percent for the euro zone, compared to 15.4 percent for both areas for August 2008 (plus 4.3 percentage point and plus 4.1 percentage point respectively).

17. EUROSTAT estimated that 21.872 million were unemployed in the EU-27 in August 2009, of which 15.165 million in the euro zone. In absolute numbers, the number of unemployed increased by 5,008,000 for the EU-27 and by 3,224,000 for the euro zone over the twelve-month period.

18. Following is the breakdown of unemployment rates in ascending order for the individual EU member states:

(Seasonally-adjusted)

(August 2009 rates unless otherwise indicated)

Netherlands	3.5
Austria	4.7
Cyprus	5.6
Denmark	5.9
Slovenia	5.9
Romania	6.4 (second quarter 2009)
Luxembourg	6.6
Czech Republic	6.9
Bulgaria	7.1
Malta	7.2
Italy	7.4 (second quarter 2009)
Germany	7.7
UK	7.8 ((June 2009)
Belgium	7.9
Poland	8.0
Finland	8.7
Portugal	9.1
Greece	9.2 (second quarter 2009)
Sweden	9.4
Hungary	9.6
France	9.9
Slovakia	11.6
Ireland	12.5
Estonia	13.3 (second quarter 2009)
Lithuania	13.7

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Latvia	18.3
Spain	18.9

EU-27	9.1
Euro zone	9.65

19. The monthly rates and numbers of unemployed are estimated and based on data from the EU labor force survey. The estimated rates may differ from national unemployment rates due to differences in methods and definitions of unemployment. Unemployed people according to ILO criteria are those aged 15 and over who:

-- Are without work;

-- Are available to start work within the next two weeks; and

-- Have actively sought employment at some time during the previous four weeks.

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